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FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 5597
INFO RUEHNZ/AMCONSUL AUCKLAND 1820
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 5360
RUEHDN/AMCONSUL SYDNEY 0785
RHHMUNA/CDR USPACOM HONOLULU HI
RUEHZU/ASIAN PACIFIC ECONOMIC COOPERATION
RUEHSS/OECD POSTS COLLECTIVE
RUCPDOG/USDOC WASHDC 0271
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC
RUEHRC/DEPT OF AGRICULTURE WASHDC
RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE

UNCLAS WELLINGTON 000430

SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

STATE FOR EAP/ANP AND EEB, STATE PASS TO USTR, PACOM FOR
J01E/J2/J233/J5/SJFHQ

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [ECON](#) [ETRD](#) [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [NZ](#)
SUBJECT: USTR TPP DISCUSSIONS IN NEW ZEALAND

¶1. (SBU) Summary. On December 8 to 11, Deputy Assistant U.S. Trade Representative Douglas Bell visited Wellington and Auckland in preparation for discussions, scheduled for March 2009, concerning the expansion of the P-4 trade agreement to include New Zealand (among other countries) or into the "Trans-Pacific Partnership" or "TPP." The purpose of Bell's visit was to become more familiar with issues and particular industries that are likely to be discussed at TPP talks. Bell met with a wide range of government, business and NGO officials who shared information and insights relating to agriculture, intellectual property, pharmaceuticals and biotechnology. End Summary.

Bell's Purpose to Gather Information, Not Negotiate

¶2. (SBU) Bell explained that his purpose in visiting New Zealand was to gather information relating the issues that are likely to become matters of negotiation and not to begin negotiations or even establish "negotiating markers." Toward that end, his schedule in New Zealand was a four-day program of meetings with government, business and NGO officials. Bell was accompanied by staff from the Wellington Embassy and from the Auckland Consulate. Bell received briefings on such matters as agriculture, intellectual property, pharmaceuticals and biotechnology in New Zealand -- all areas of likely discussion when TPP negotiations begin.

Wellington Meetings

¶3. (SBU) In Wellington, Bell's meetings with NZ government officials including representatives from:
-- The NZ Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade;
-- The NZ Ministry of Health;
-- The NZ Ministry of Economic Development;
-- The NZ Treasury;
-- The NZ Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry;
-- The NZ Food Safety Authority;
-- The NZ Environment Risk Management Authority;
-- The NZ Aid for International Development; and
-- Pharmac (the government entity that manages the national drug subsidy program).
Bell also met with business and NGO representatives in order to better understand NZ's pharmaceutical, agricultural and horticultural industries.

Auckland Meetings

¶4. (SBU) In Auckland, Bell met with members of the business community, including representatives of the financial, pharmaceutical, motion picture and intellectual property sectors. Bell also met with the NZ-US Council and with the Business Council for Sustainable Development (concerning NZ's efforts to pursue economic growth in an environmentally-friendly way).
Next Steps

¶5. (SBU) Embassy Wellington will be providing Bell with follow-up reports on several subjects relating to his visit. Mark Sinclair, NZ's lead TPP negotiator, plans to visit Washington, DC in February 2009 to continue preliminary discussions. Formal pluri-lateral TPP discussions are scheduled to commence in March 2009.